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ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF,

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 DE RUEHC #7908 1790147  
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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO RUEHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 0160  
 INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 1571  
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 6617  
 RUEAIIA/ CIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4365  
 BT  
 S E C R E T STATE 197908

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CIA EYES ONLY DCI

State Dept. review completed

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR  
 TAGS: PTER, LE, AL  
 SUBJECT: AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON -- CHANNELS TO  
 FADLALLAH

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IMAM MEHDI KHORASANI (CALIFORNIA SHI'A MULLAH)  
 TELEPHONED DEPTOFF TO SAY HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TALK BY  
 TELEPHONE WITH SHEIKH FADLALLAH AT APPROXIMATELY 8 P.M.  
 LEBANON TIME JUNE 27. SINCE FADLALLAH WAS IN THE  
 PRESENCE OF OTHERS DURING THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, HIS  
 REMARKS TO KHORASANI WERE REPORTEDLY CRYPTIC.

3. KHORASANI SAID HE TOLD FADLALLAH THAT THE GRIEVANCES  
 OF LEBANON'S SHI'A POPULATION HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN  
 AMPLE PUBLICITY IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE AND EXHORTED  
 HIM TO FREE THE HOSTAGES IMMEDIATELY. FADLALLAH AGREED  
 AND SAID THAT HE WAS FEELING "OPTIMISTIC" THAT THE  
 HOSTAGE PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN A DAY.

4. KHORASANI GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT FADLALLAH AND THE  
 OTHER SHI'A IN LEBANON WERE NOW EXTREMELY AFRAID OF THE  
 CONSEQUENCES OF A CONTINUATION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS. HE  
 TOLD KHORASANI IN PERSIAN AT ONE POINT "THE GUN IS AT OUR

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HEADS: WE ARE NOT IN A COMFORTABLE POSITION".

5. WHEN DEPTOFF ASKED WHETHER KHRASANI HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS ANY SPECIFICS SUCH AS THE FATE OF THE SEVEN HOSTAGES TAKEN PRIOR TO THE AIRCRAFT HIGHJACKING, HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION (NOT FROM FADLALLAH) THAT THE LEBANESE SHI'A WOULD BE INCLINED TO HOLD SOME HOSTAGES UNTIL THEY WERE CONVINCED THERE WOULD BE NO RETRIBUTION.

6. BACKGROUND COMMENT: KHRASANI, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE SHI'A MOSQUE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA, WAS HELPFUL TO US DURING THE IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS. AS A MULLAH EDUCATED IN THE TOP SHI'A INSTITUTIONS IN IRAQ, HE KNOWS PERSONALLY AND INDIRECTLY LEADING SHI'A CLERGY THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. HE CLAIMS TO KNOW FADLALLAH VERY WELL.

7. FOR ALGIERS: YOU SHOULD ASK GOA TO HAVE THEIR AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT CONTACT BARTHOLOMEW TO DISCUSS THE FATE OF THE SEVEN MISSING AMERICANS. BARTHOLOMEW WILL PROVIDE OUR THINKING ON HOW TO PRESS THIS ISSUE WITH FADLALLAH AND OTHER ALGERIAN CONTACTS.

8. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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